



THE HIDDEN TREASURE

WISDOM WINS A WAR

Vol 617





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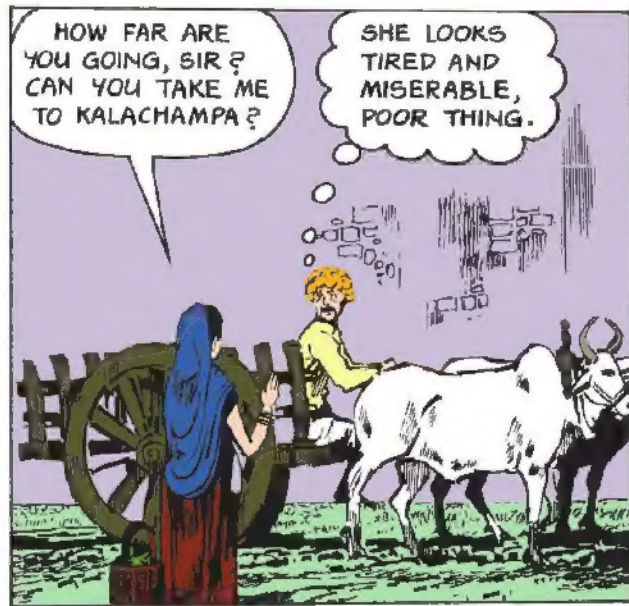
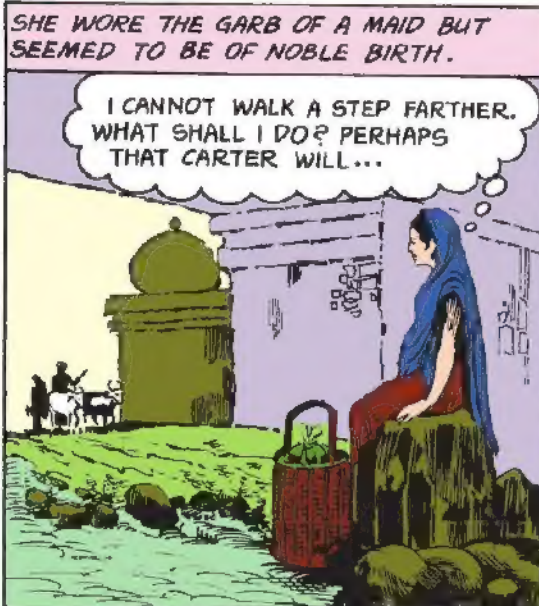
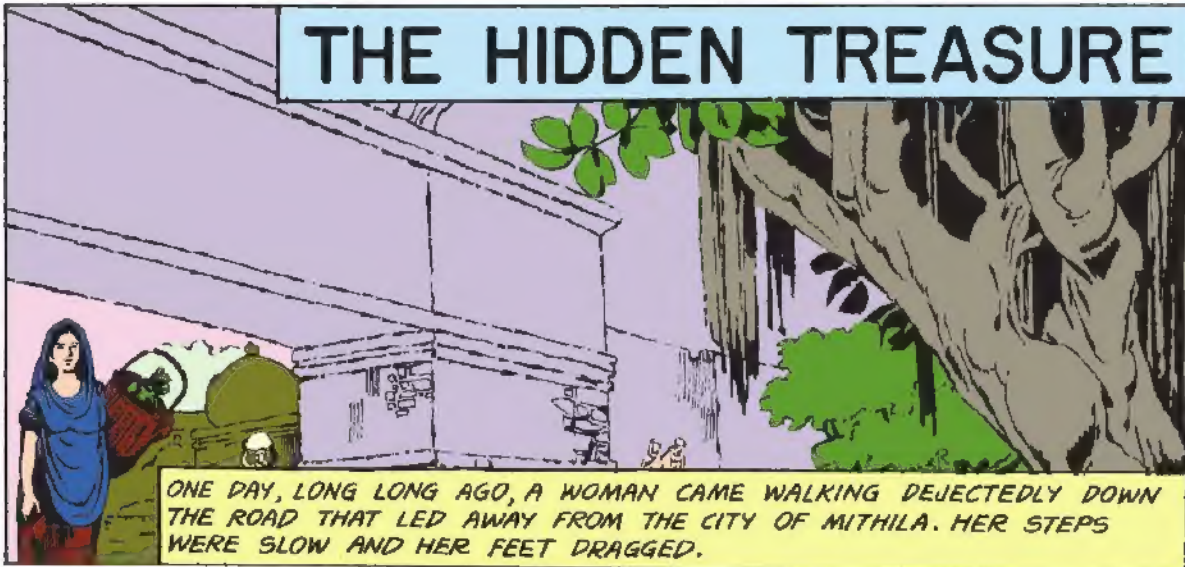
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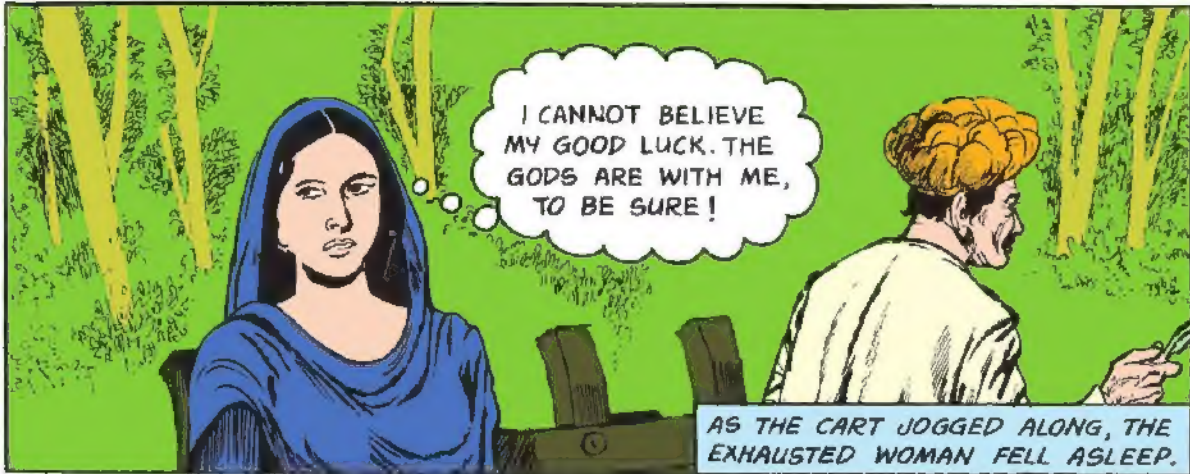
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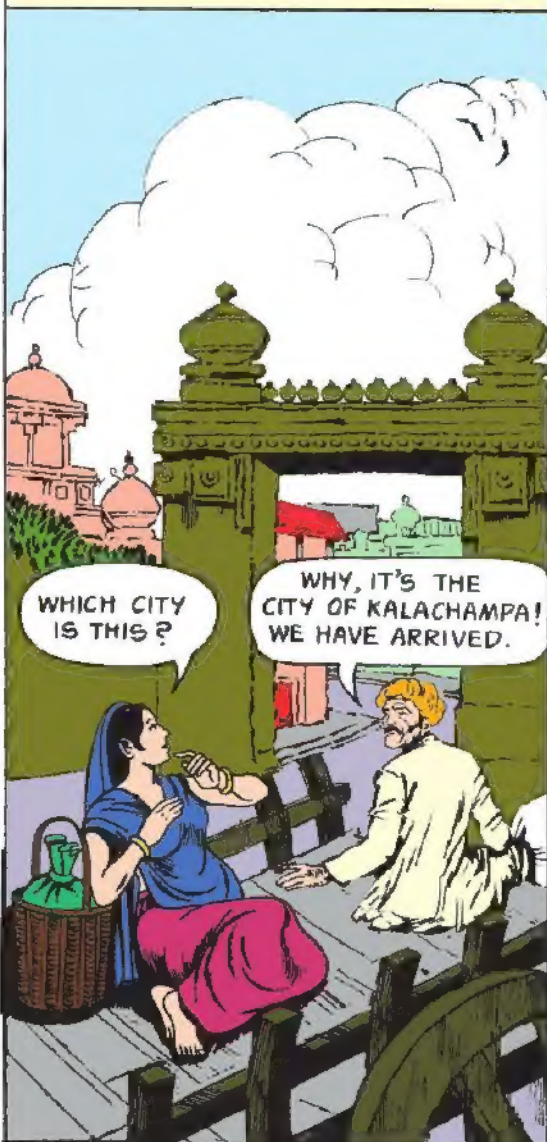
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THE HIDDEN TREASURE



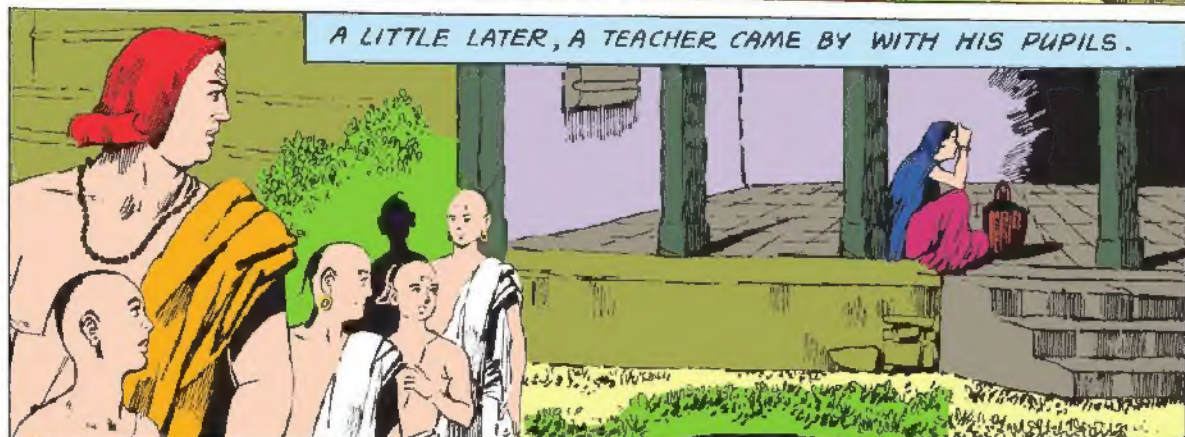
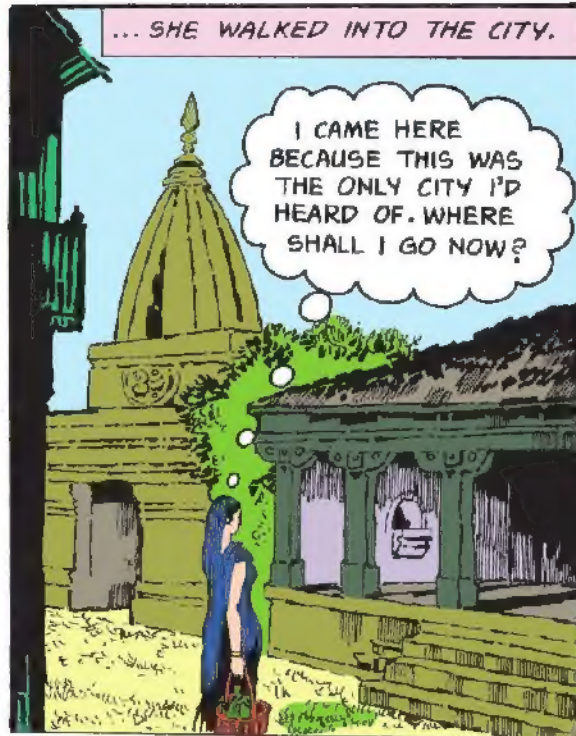


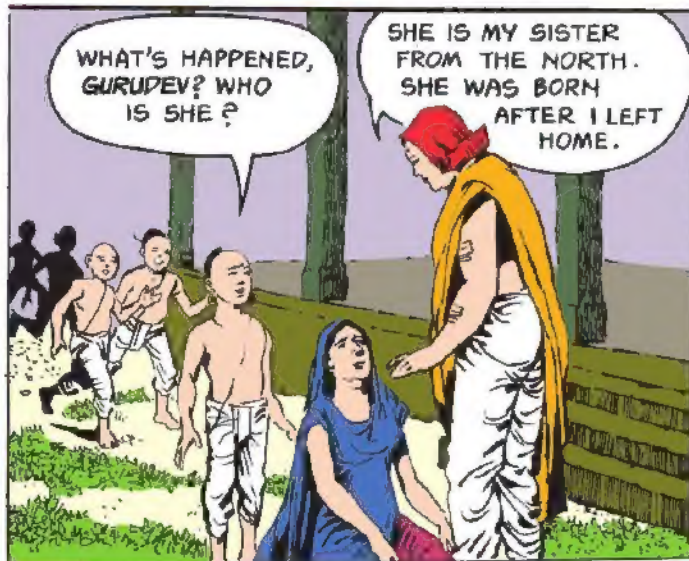
WHEN SHE WOKE UP IT WAS EVENING.

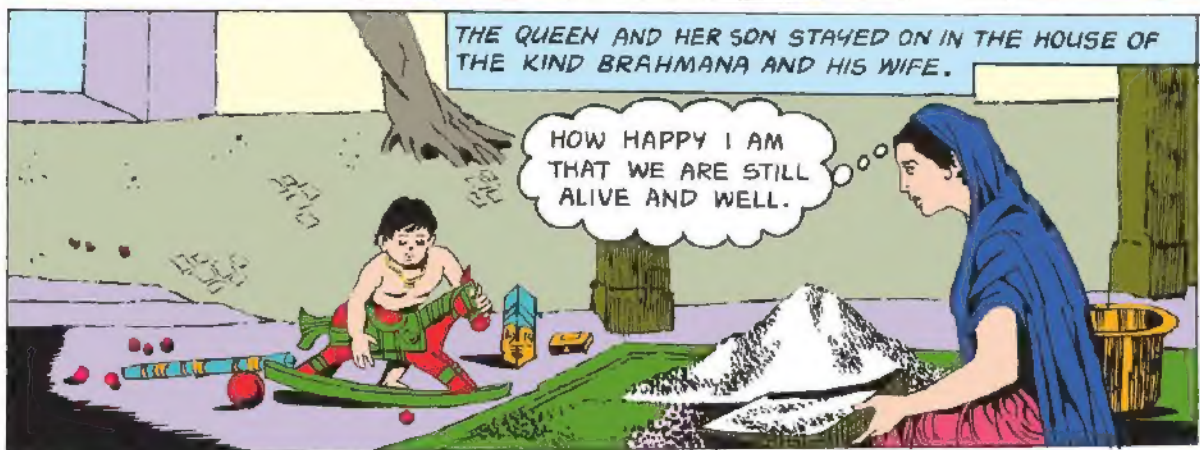
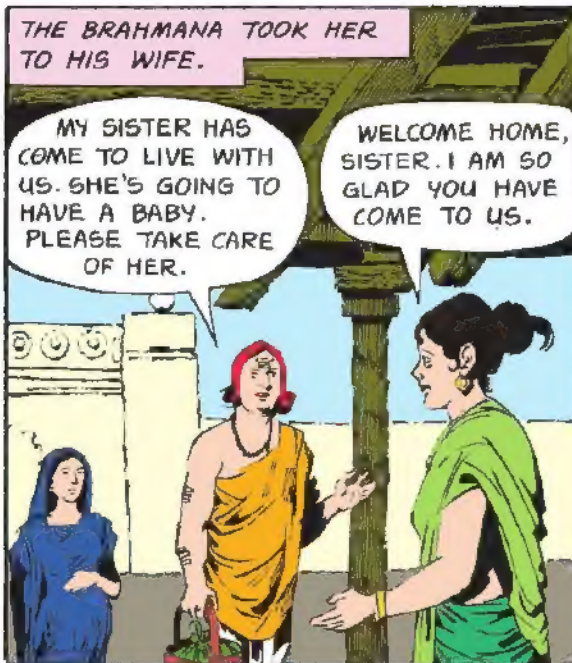


HE BROUGHT HIS CART TO A HALT AT THE SOUTHERN GATE OF THE CITY.







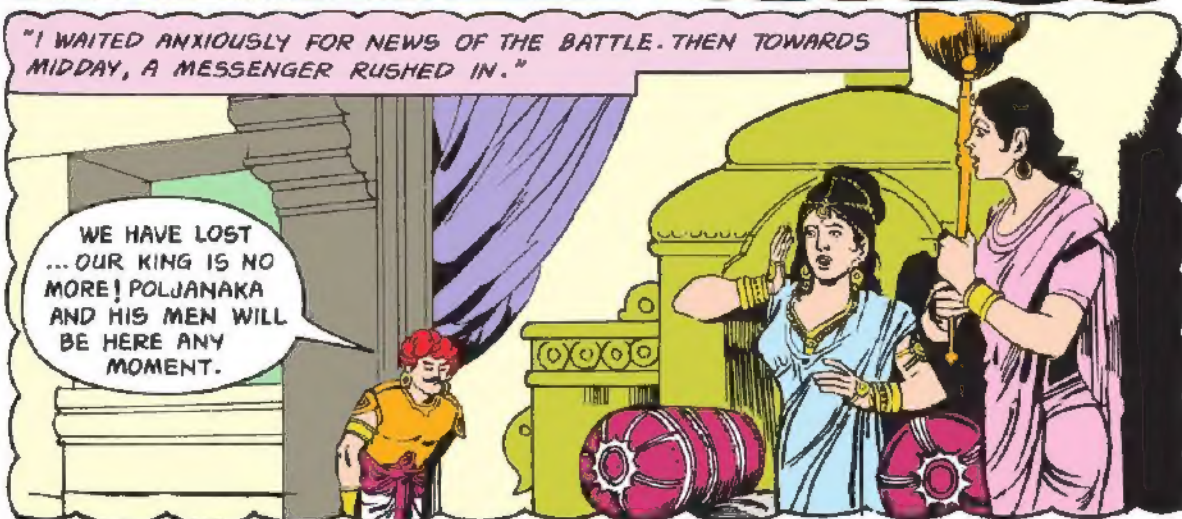


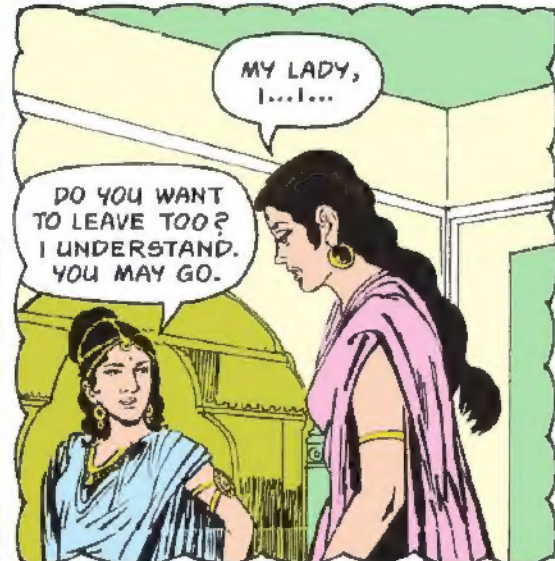
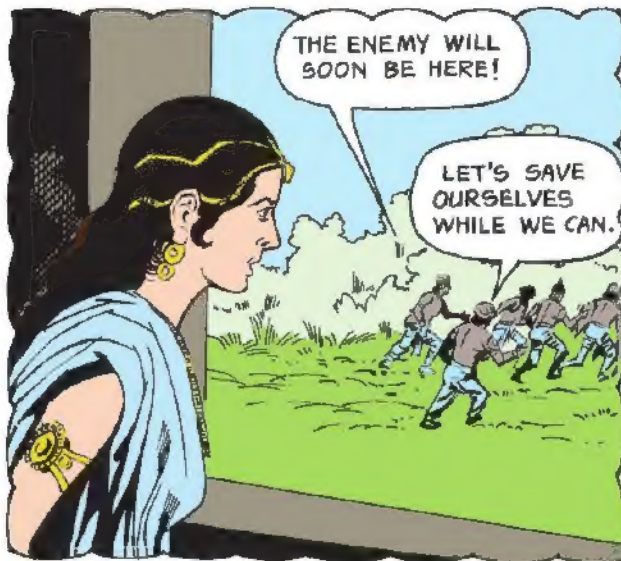
BUT THEY OFTEN QUARRELLED TOO. AND, THEN, MAHAJANAKA WHO WAS THE STRONGEST OF THEM ALL, WOULD BEAT UP THE OTHERS. ONE DAY, AFTER SUCH A QUARREL —



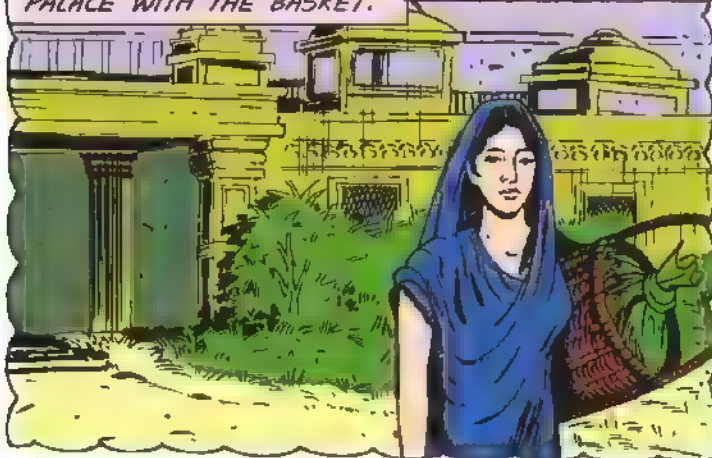
MAHAJANAKA RAN TO HIS MOTHER.



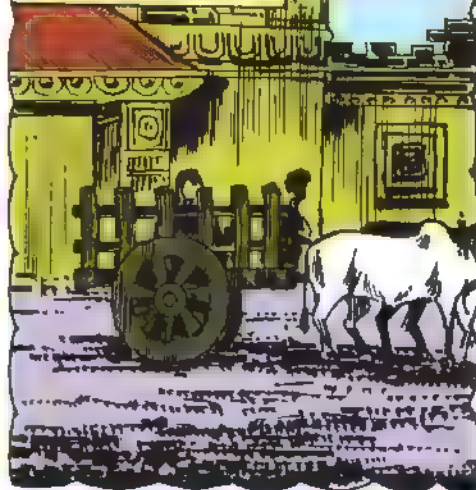




"AFTER THAT I CAST OFF MY ROYAL CLOTHES, DISGUISED MYSELF AS A MAID AND LEFT THE PALACE WITH THE BASKET."



"A CARTER BROUGHT ME HERE TO KALACHAMPA."



IF IT WERE NOT FOR OUR HOST AND HIS WIFE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO ME... AND LATER YOU.



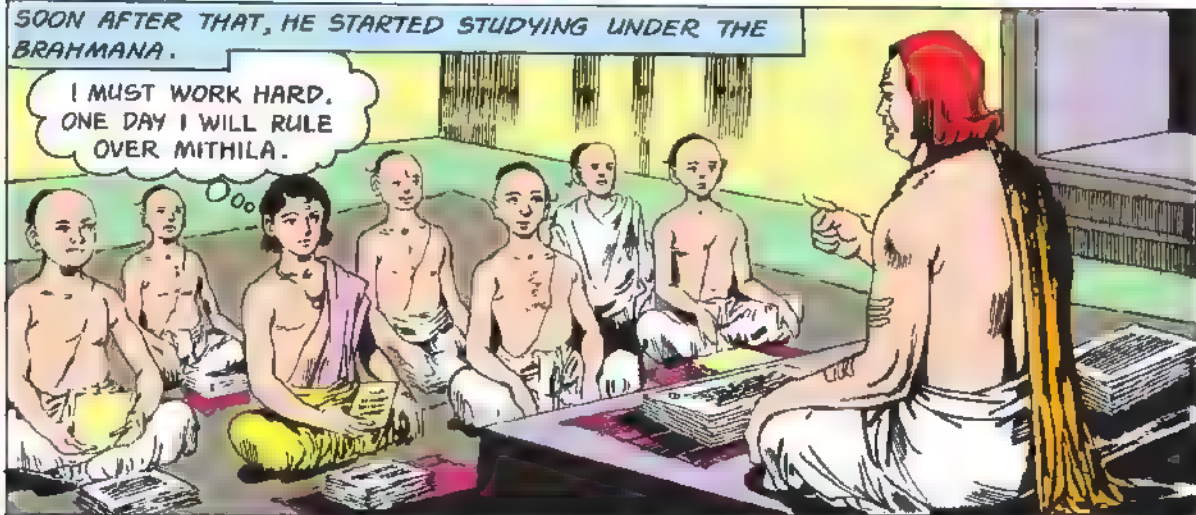
EVEN NOW I AM AFRAID OF OUR ENEMIES. NOBODY SHOULD KNOW WHO WE ARE.

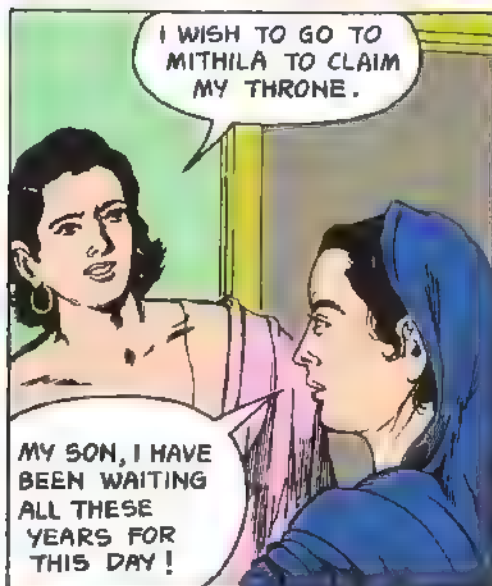
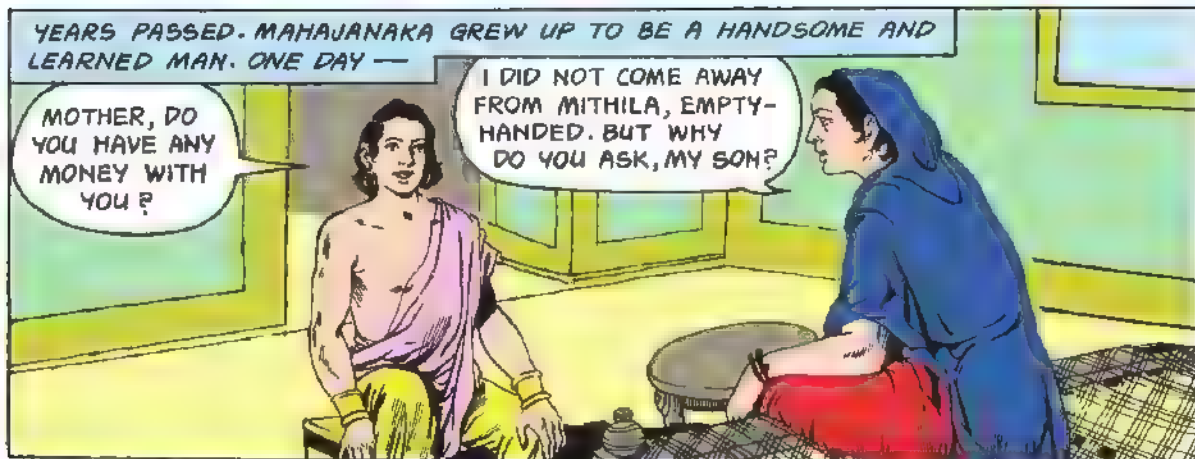
DON'T WORRY, MOTHER. NO ONE WILL. I PROMISE.



SOON AFTER THAT, HE STARTED STUDYING UNDER THE BRAHMANA.

I MUST WORK HARD. ONE DAY I WILL RULE OVER MITHILA.





SOON THE DAY OF DEPARTURE DAWNED.

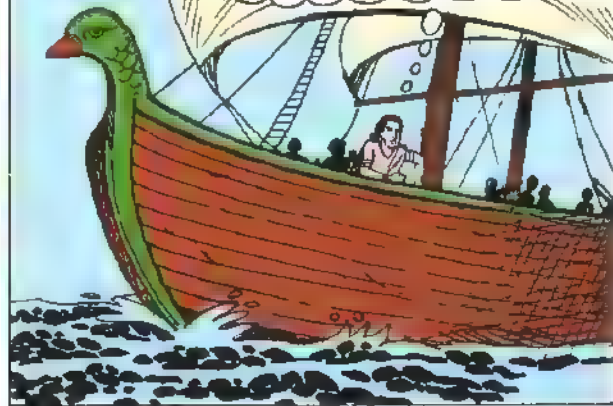
MOTHER, BLESS ME! AND DON'T WORRY.

MAY GOD BE WITH YOU, MY SON.

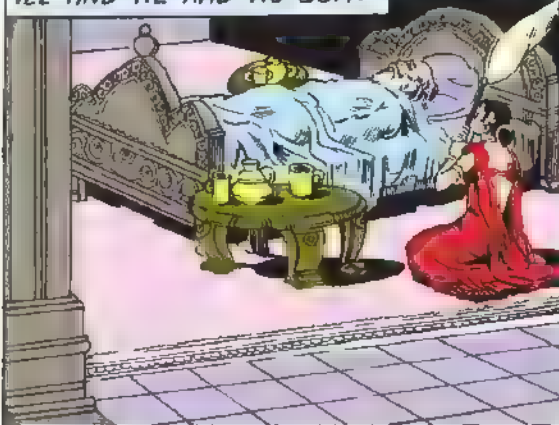


AS THE SHIP SET SAIL —

I WONDER IF POLJANAKA IS STILL ALIVE. WILL I HAVE TO FIGHT HIM OR HIS SON? I WONDER WHAT AWAITS ME AT MITHILA.

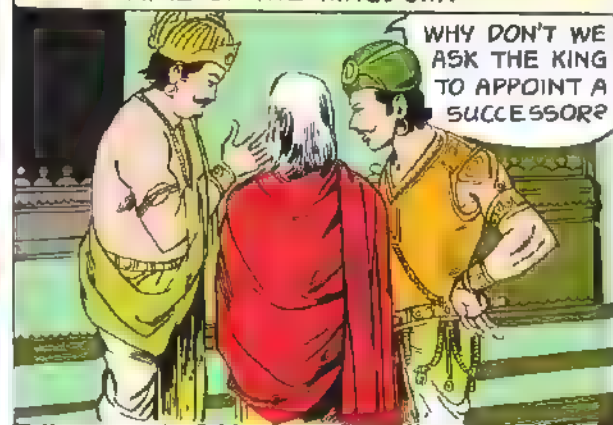


POLJANAKA WAS ALIVE BUT SERIOUSLY ILL AND HE HAD NO SON.



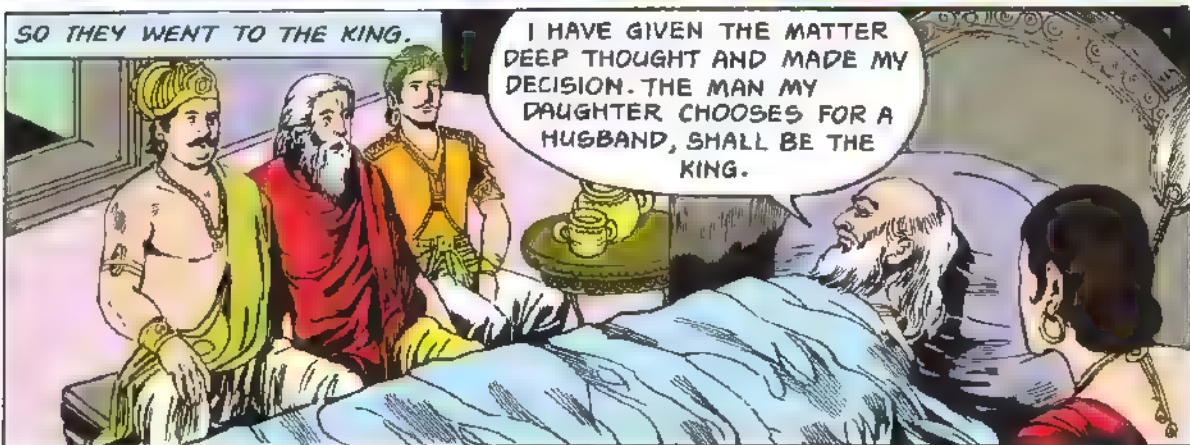
HIS MINISTERS WERE WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE KINGDOM.

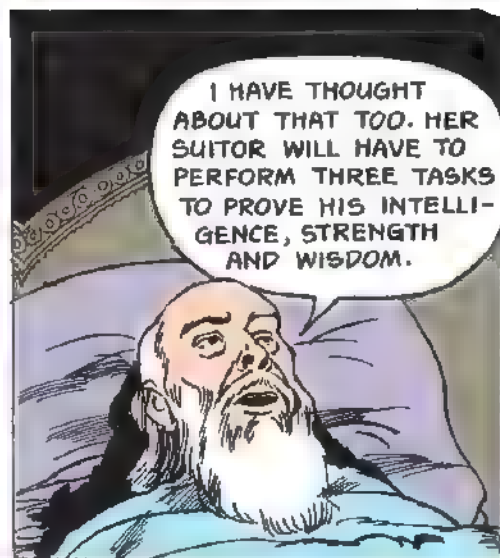
WHY DON'T WE ASK THE KING TO APPOINT A SUCCESSOR?

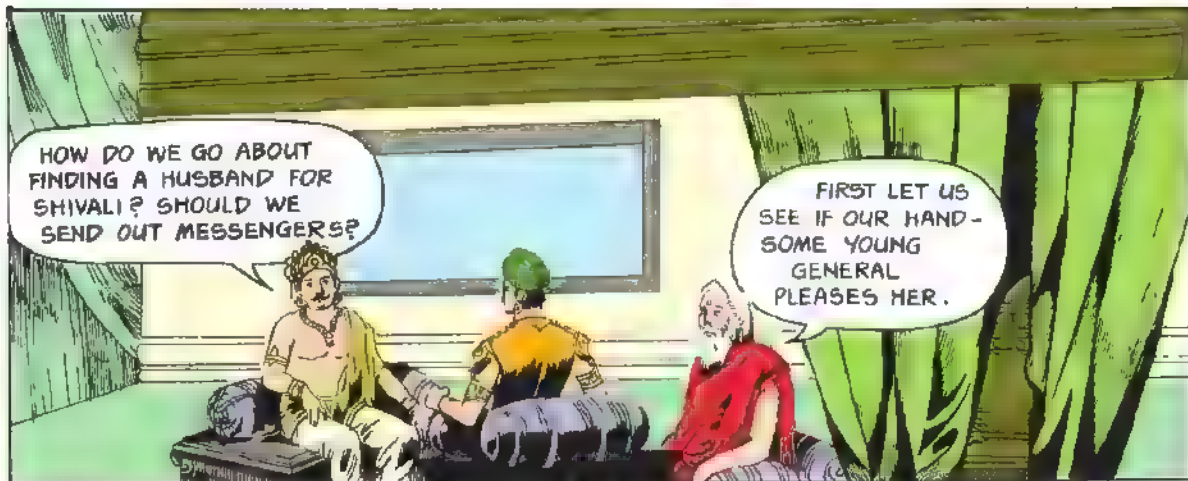


SO THEY WENT TO THE KING.

I HAVE GIVEN THE MATTER DEEP THOUGHT AND MADE MY DECISION. THE MAN MY DAUGHTER CHOOSES FOR A HUSBAND, SHALL BE THE KING.

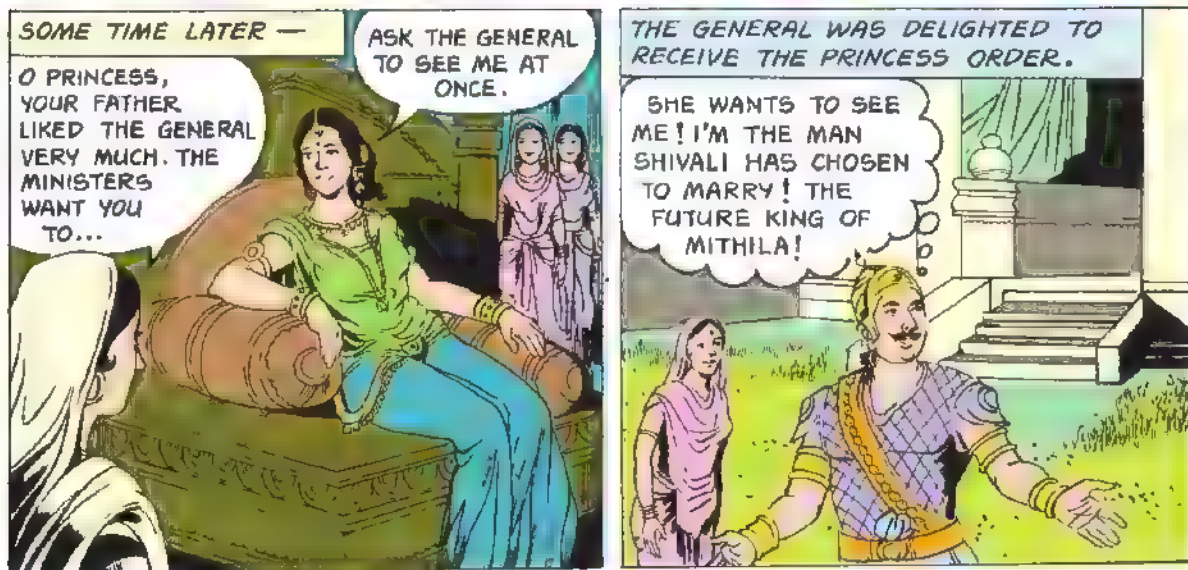






HOW DO WE GO ABOUT FINDING A HUSBAND FOR SHIVALI? SHOULD WE SEND OUT MESSENGERS?

FIRST LET US SEE IF OUR HAND-SOME YOUNG GENERAL PLEASES HER.



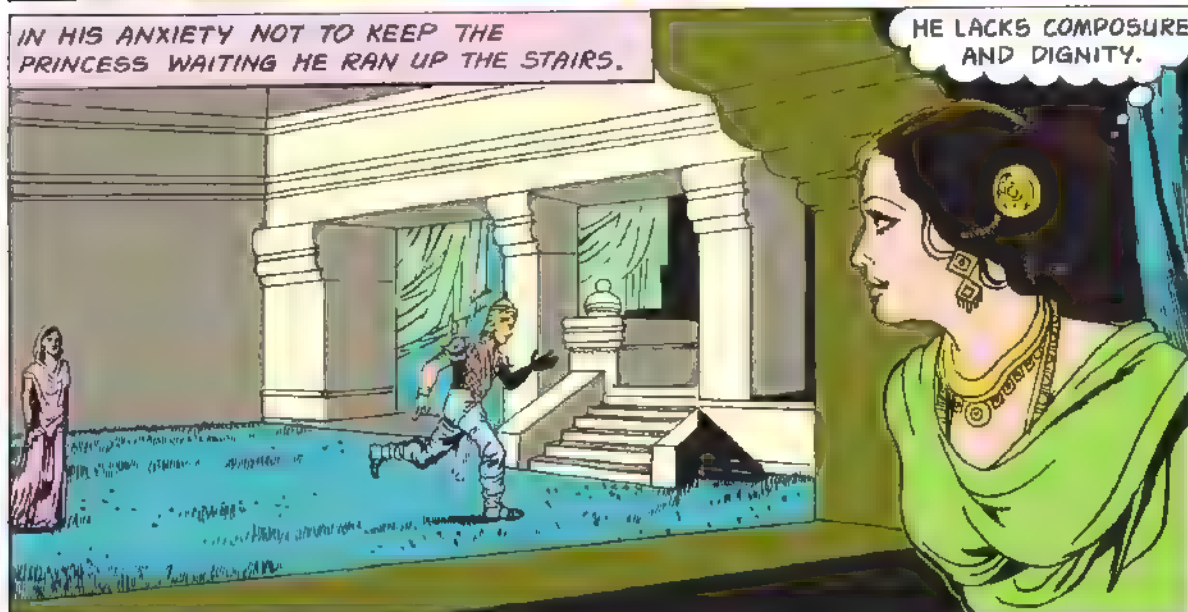
SOME TIME LATER —

O PRINCESS, YOUR FATHER LIKED THE GENERAL VERY MUCH. THE MINISTERS WANT YOU TO...

ASK THE GENERAL TO SEE ME AT ONCE.

THE GENERAL WAS DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE THE PRINCESS ORDER.

SHE WANTS TO SEE ME! I'M THE MAN SHIVALI HAS CHOSEN TO MARRY! THE FUTURE KING OF MITHILA!



IN HIS ANXIETY NOT TO KEEP THE PRINCESS WAITING HE RAN UP THE STAIRS.

HE LACKS COMPOSURE AND DIGNITY.

SOON THE GENERAL STOOD BEFORE HER.

I AM AT
YOUR
SERVICE,
PRINCESS.

WHAT CAN
YOU DO FOR
ME?

OH! ANYTHING!
YOUR WORD IS
MY COMMAND!

AH! IS
THAT
SO?

YES... I'LL STRIVE TO
SERVE YOU IN EVERY
WAY— EVEN PRESS
YOUR FEET OR FETCH
YOUR SLIPPERS!

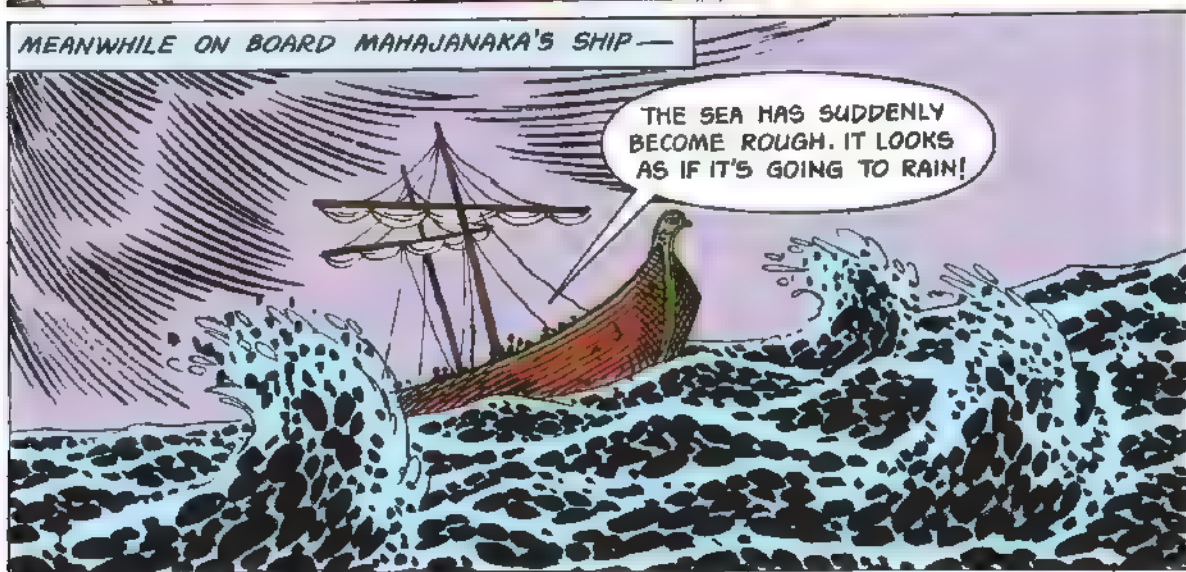
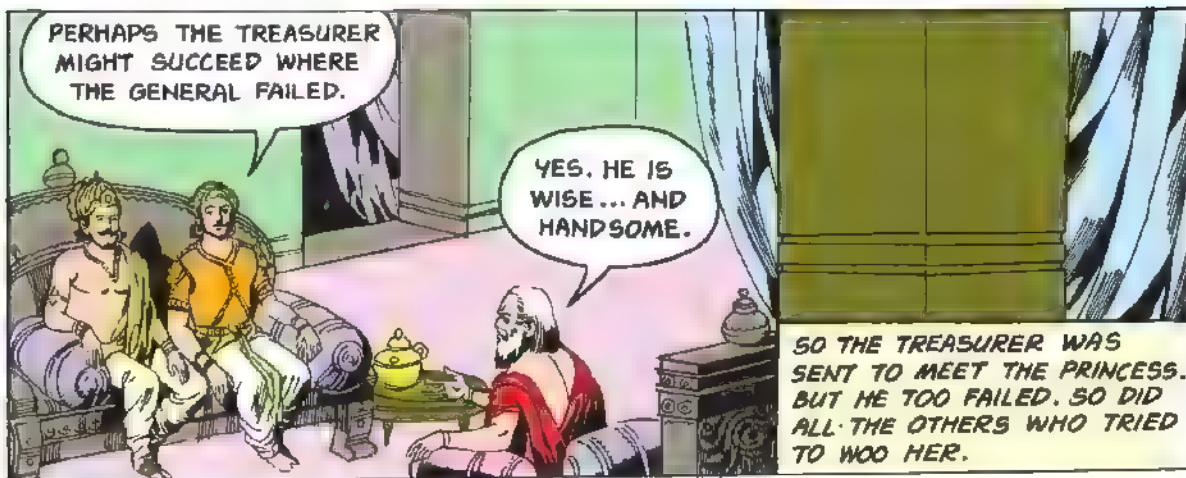
I COULD NEVER
RESPECT THIS SERVILE
CREATURE!

HOW CAN YOU BE SO MEEK! HAVE
YOU NO SELF-RESPECT? YOU
MAY GO NOW, GENERAL!

WHEN THE GENERAL RETURNED TO THE
MINISTERS —

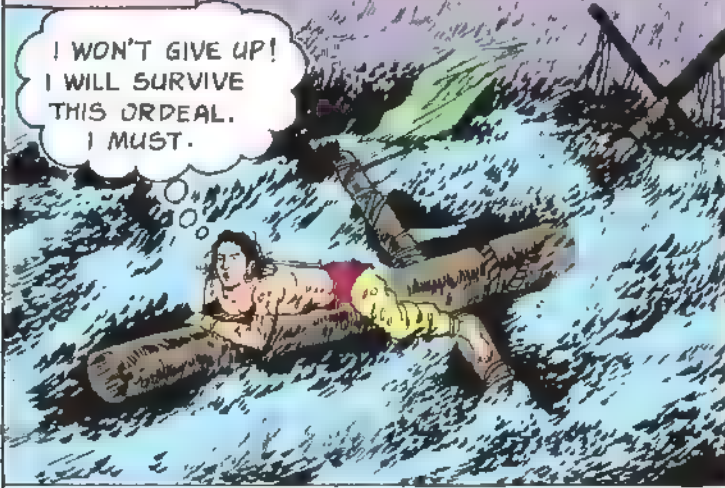
WHAT
HAPPENED?
YOU LOOK
CREST-
FALLEN!

THAT
GIRL IS HARD
TO PLEASE!



AS THE SHIP SANK UNDER THE ONSLAUGHT OF THE WAVES, MAHAJANAKA TIGHTENED HIS GRIP ON THE MAST.

I WON'T GIVE UP!
I WILL SURVIVE
THIS ORDEAL.
I MUST.



A FEW DAYS LATER, MAHAJANAKA WAS WASHED ASHORE. WHEN HE OPENED HIS EYES -

WHERE AM I? WHAT AN EFFORT
IT IS TO MOVE! BUT I MUST
MUSTER ALL MY STRENGTH
AND FIND MY WAY TO THE
CITY.



LATER, IN A GARDEN OUTSIDE THE EASTERN GATE OF THE CITY, HE OVERHEARD TWO MEN TALKING.

WHAT'S
THIS
I HEAR!



...AND SO MITHILA
IS STILL WITHOUT
A KING!

I AM IN
MITHILA! AND
MITHILA IS
WITHOUT A
KING!



BUT I HAVE NEITHER
WEAPONS NOR MONEY.
I MUST MOVE
CAUTIOUSLY. I MUST
LIE DOWN AND
GET SOME REST
BEFORE I MAKE
ANY PLANS.



AT THE PALACE, MEANWHILE —

NOT A SINGLE
MAN IN THE
KINGDOM HAS
BEEN ABLE TO
PLEASE THE
PRINCESS.

FOR HOW LONG
CAN THE KINGDOM
REMAIN WITHOUT
A KING ?

PERHAPS,
THE ROYAL
PRIEST
CAN HELP
US.



WHEN THEY CONSULTED THE ROYAL
PRIEST —

SEND OUT
THE SACRED
CHARIOT. IT
WILL LEAD US
TO THE RIGHT
MAN.



THE NEWS OF THE CHARIOT BEING SENT OUT SPREAD LIKE
WILDFIRE. EXCITED CITIZENS THROGGED THE STREETS.



THAT WAS
THE BEST
DECISION OUR
MINISTERS
COULD HAVE
TAKEN.

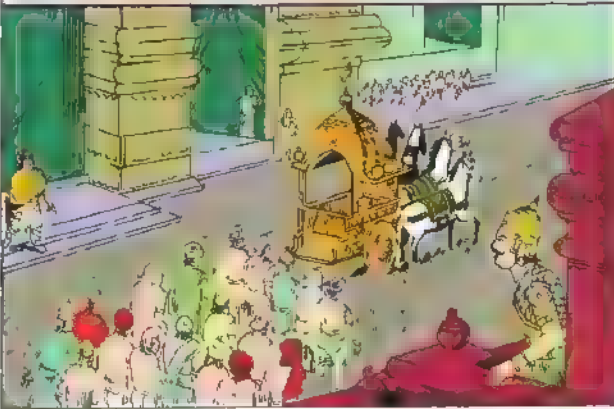
I HAVE HEARD THAT
THE CHARIOT HAS NEVER
FAILED US IN THE PAST.
IT WILL NOT FAIL US
NOW.

AT THE AUSPICIOUS HOUR THE ROYAL PRIEST STOOD BEFORE THE CHARIOT.



LEAD US TO HIM WHO WILL PLEASE SHIVALI AND WHO IS FIT TO RULE A KINGDOM.

THE ROYAL PRIEST WITH THE MINISTERS WALKED BEHIND THE CHARIOT AS IT ROLLED PAST THE HOUSES OF THE GENERAL, THE TREASURER, AND ALL THE OTHER SUITORS.

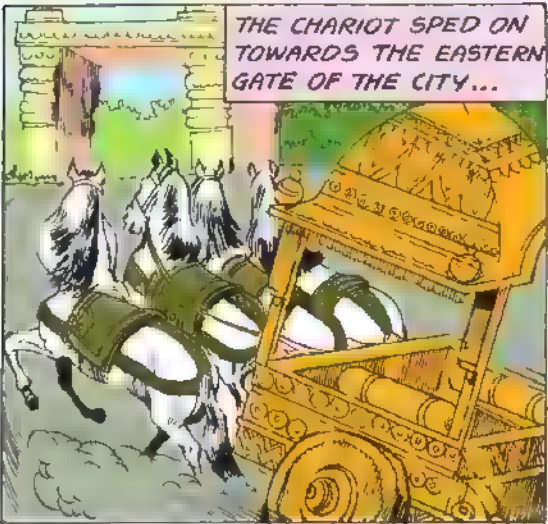


SUDDENLY THE HORSES BROKE INTO A GALLOP.

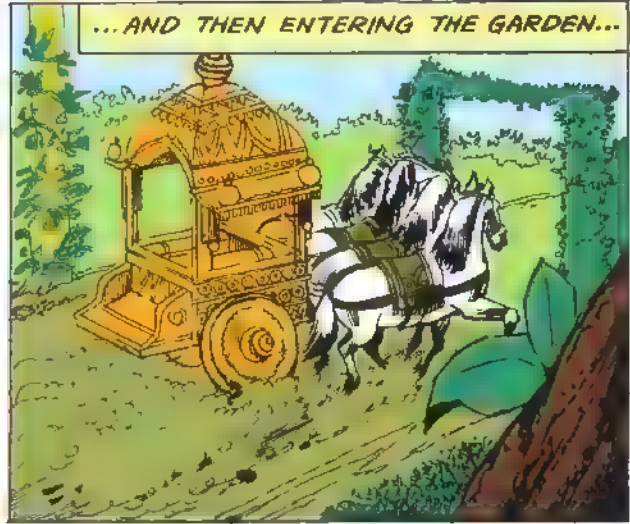
DON'T TRY TO SLOW THEM DOWN. WE'LL KEEP PACE WITH THEM.



THE CHARIOT SPED ON TOWARDS THE EASTERN GATE OF THE CITY...



... AND THEN ENTERING THE GARDEN...

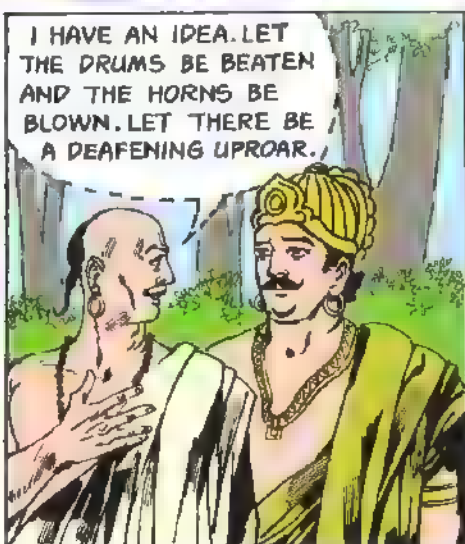


...CAME TO A HALT NEAR THE SPOT WHERE MAHAJANAKA LAY SLEEPING.

THE CHARIOT HAS NEVER
FAILED US... BUT... HE'S
A TOTAL STRANGER.



I HAVE AN IDEA. LET
THE DRUMS BE BEATEN
AND THE HORNS BE
BLOWN. LET THERE BE
A DEAFENING UPROAR.

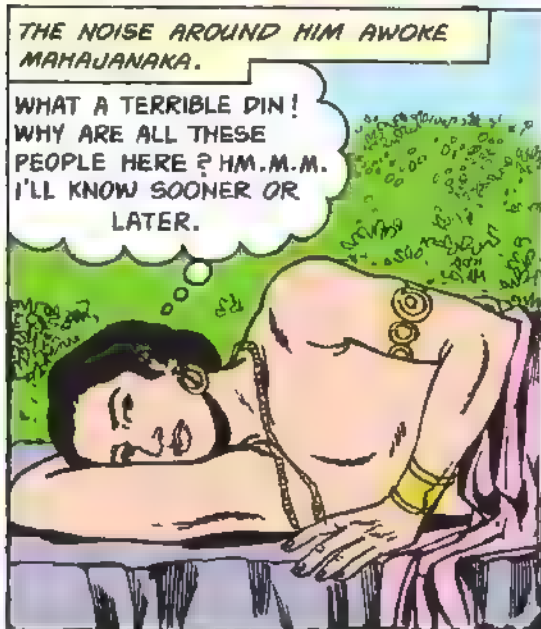


HOW HE WAKES
UP, WHAT HE
DOES AND SAYS,
WILL TELL US
MUCH ABOUT HIM.
HE'S STIRRING!

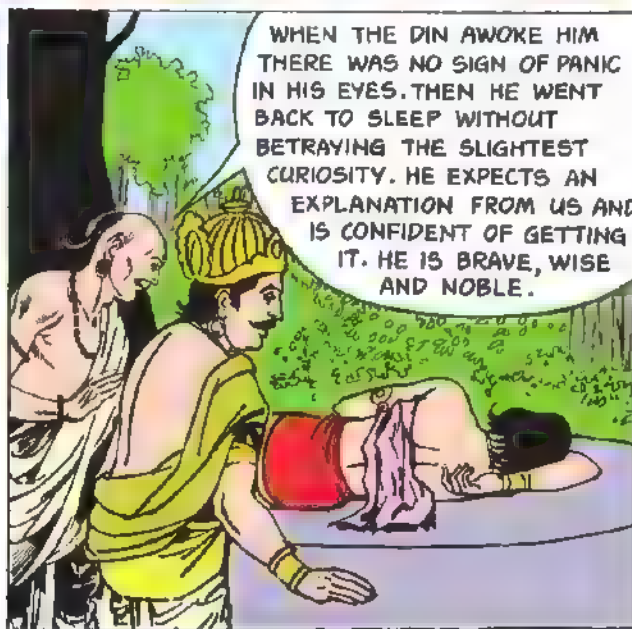


THE NOISE AROUND HIM AWOKE
MAHAJANAKA.

WHAT A TERRIBLE DIN!
WHY ARE ALL THESE
PEOPLE HERE? HM.M.M.
I'LL KNOW SOONER OR
LATER.



WHEN THE DIN AWOKED HIM
THERE WAS NO SIGN OF PANIC
IN HIS EYES. THEN HE WENT
BACK TO SLEEP WITHOUT
BETRAYING THE SLIGHTEST
CURIOSITY. HE EXPECTS AN
EXPLANATION FROM US AND
IS CONFIDENT OF GETTING
IT. HE IS BRAVE, WISE
AND NOBLE.



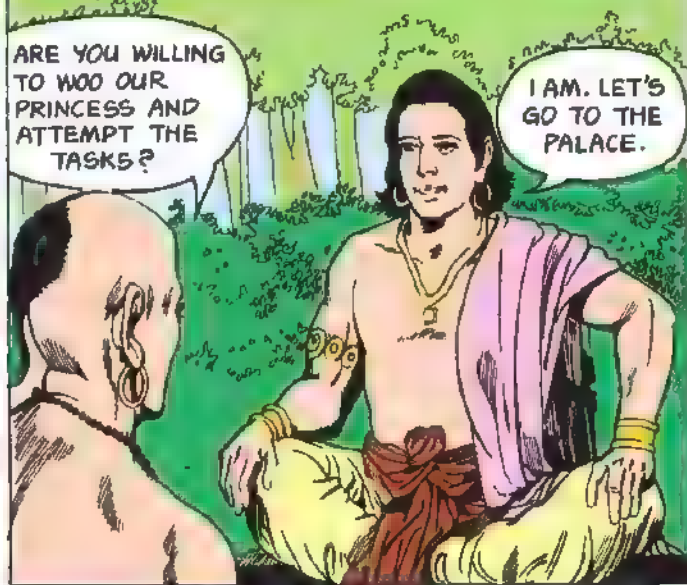
THE PRIEST CAME FORWARD.



RISE, O NOBLE
ONE. THE KINGDOM
AWAITS YOU!

WHEN MAHAJANAKA SAT UP, THE PRIEST
EXPLAINED ALL TO HIM.

ARE YOU WILLING
TO WOO OUR
PRINCESS AND
ATTEMPT THE
TASKS?



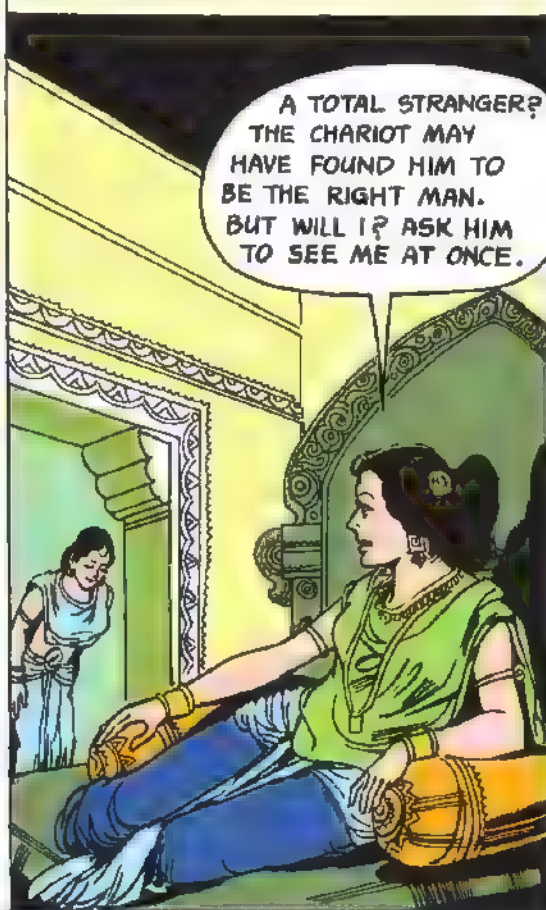
I AM. LET'S
GO TO THE
PALACE.

LED BY MAHAJANAKA WHO WAS SEATED
IN THE CHARIOT, THE PROCESSION WENDED
ITS WAY TO THE PALACE.



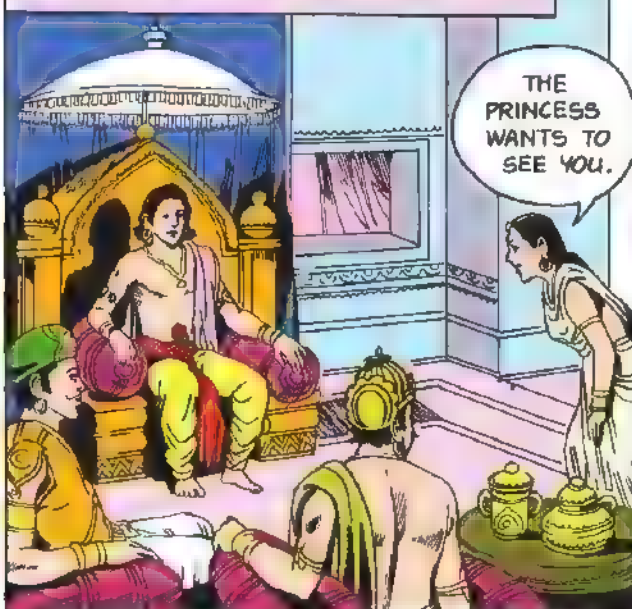
LONG LIVE
THE KING!

WHEN PRINCESS SHIVALI WAS TOLD
ABOUT MAHAJANAKA —



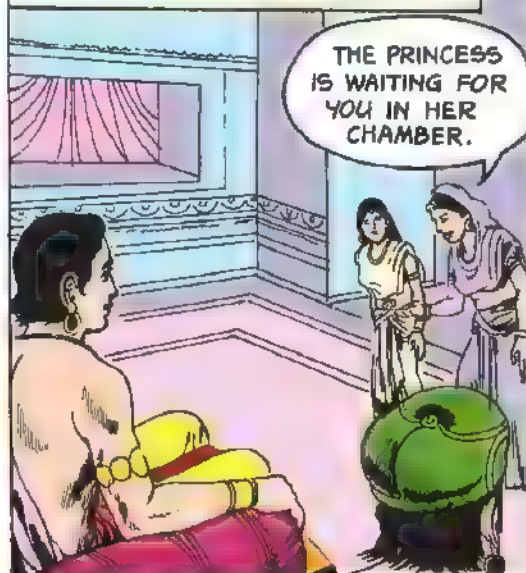
A TOTAL STRANGER?
THE CHARIOT MAY
HAVE FOUND HIM TO
BE THE RIGHT MAN.
BUT WILL I? ASK HIM
TO SEE ME AT ONCE.

SHIVALI'S MAID DID AS SHE WAS TOLD.



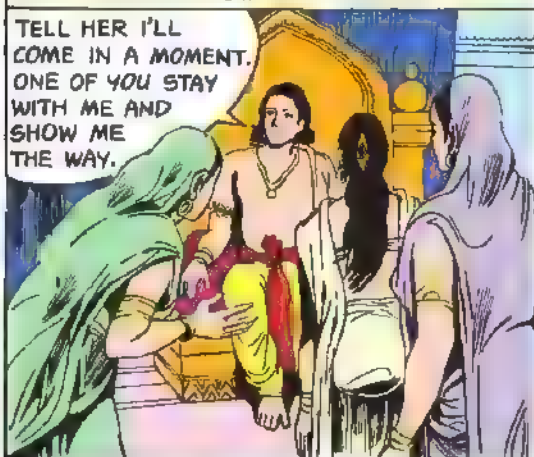
THE PRINCESS WANTS TO SEE YOU.

BUT MAHAJANAKA DID NOT MOVE. SOON ANOTHER MAID CAME IN.



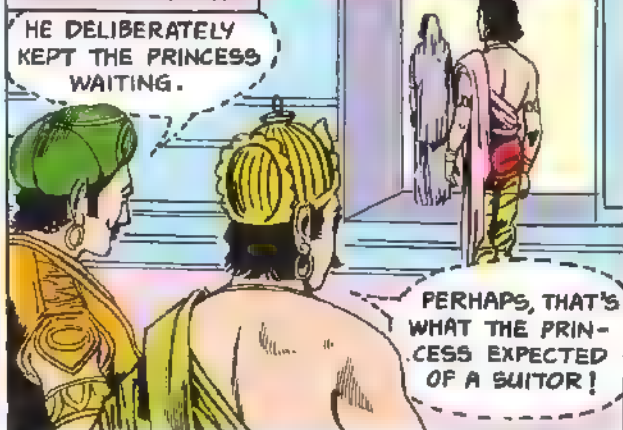
THE PRINCESS IS WAITING FOR YOU IN HER CHAMBER.

ONLY WHEN A THIRD MAID BROUGHT THE SAME MESSAGE DID HE RESPOND.



TELL HER I'LL COME IN A MOMENT. ONE OF YOU STAY WITH ME AND SHOW ME THE WAY.

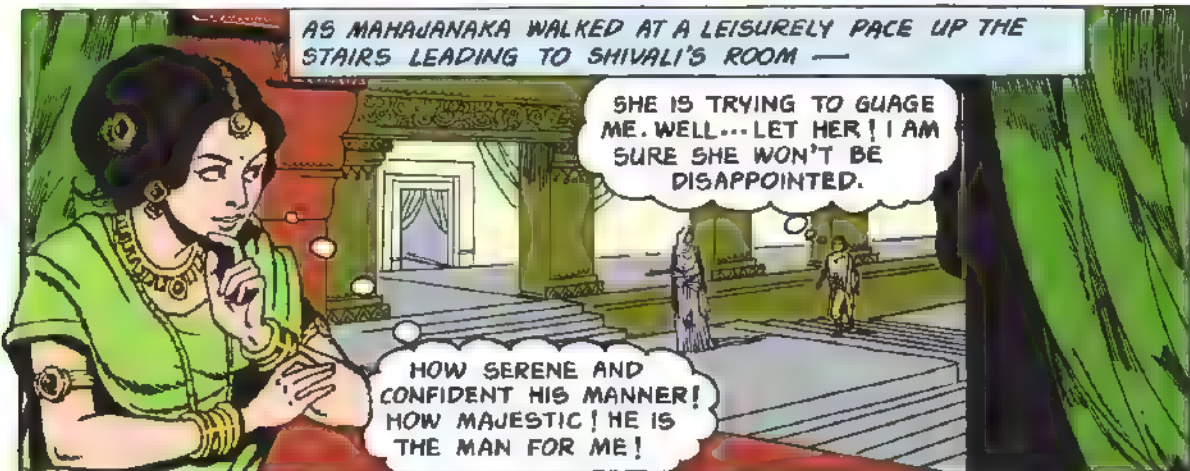
HE TOOK HIS OWN TIME TO GET UP AND WALKED SLOWLY, REGALLY TOWARDS THE PRINCESS' ROOM.



HE DELIBERATELY KEPT THE PRINCESS WAITING.

PERHAPS, THAT'S WHAT THE PRINCESS EXPECTED OF A SUITOR!

AS MAHAJANAKA WALKED AT A LEISURELY PACE UP THE STAIRS LEADING TO SHIVALI'S ROOM —



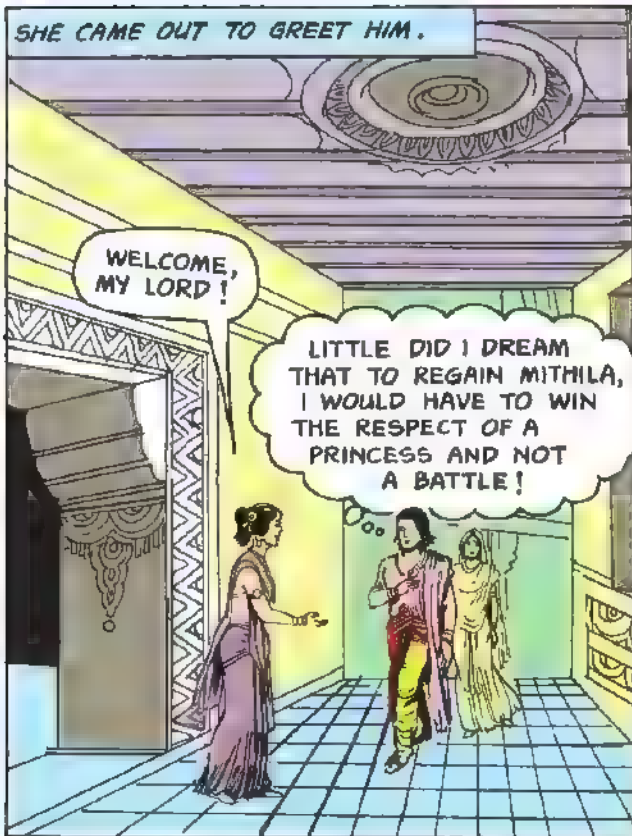
SHE IS TRYING TO GAUGE ME. WELL... LET HER! I AM SURE SHE WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED.

HOW SERENE AND CONFIDENT HIS MANNER! HOW MAJESTIC! HE IS THE MAN FOR ME!

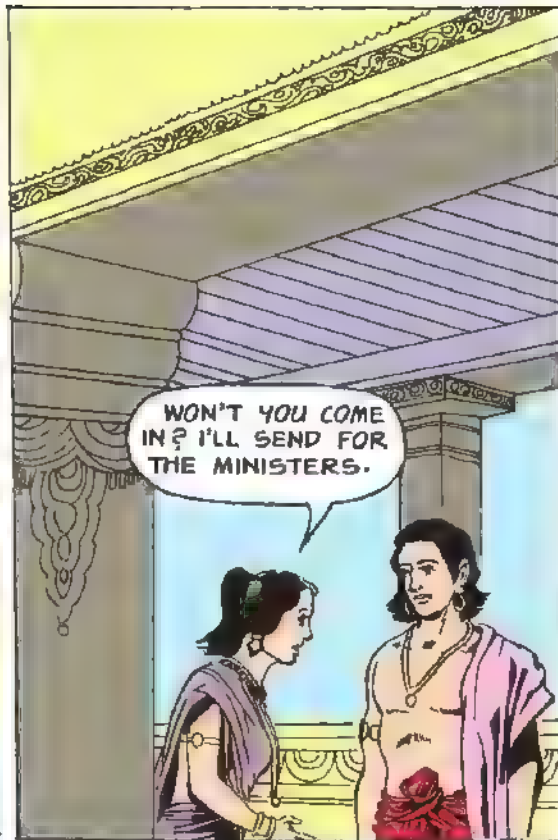
SHE CAME OUT TO GREET HIM.

WELCOME,
MY LORD!

LITTLE DID I DREAM
THAT TO REGAIN MITHILA,
I WOULD HAVE TO WIN
THE RESPECT OF A
PRINCESS AND NOT
A BATTLE!



WON'T YOU COME
IN? I'LL SEND FOR
THE MINISTERS.



WHEN THE MINISTERS CAME —

HOW PLEASED
WE ARE TO KNOW
THAT OUR PRINCESS
HAS WELCOMED
YOU.

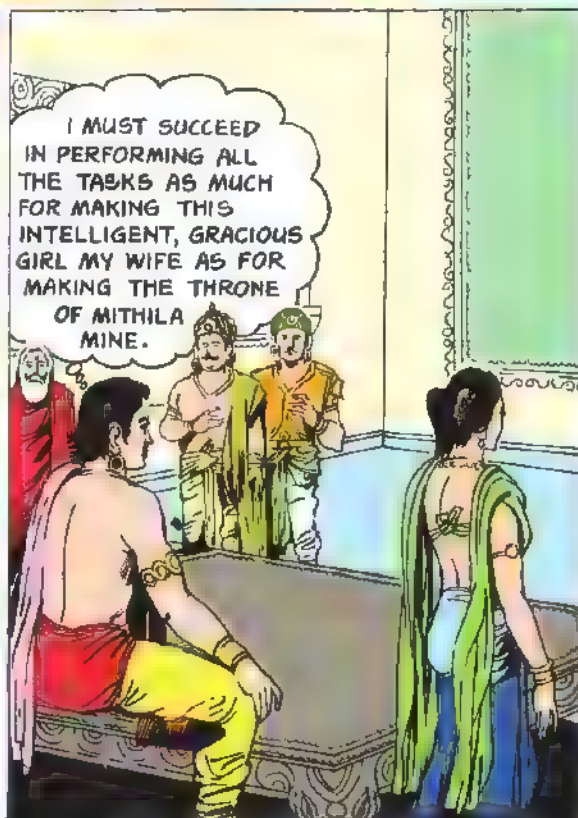
THE
CHARIOT WAS
RIGHT AS
USUAL.

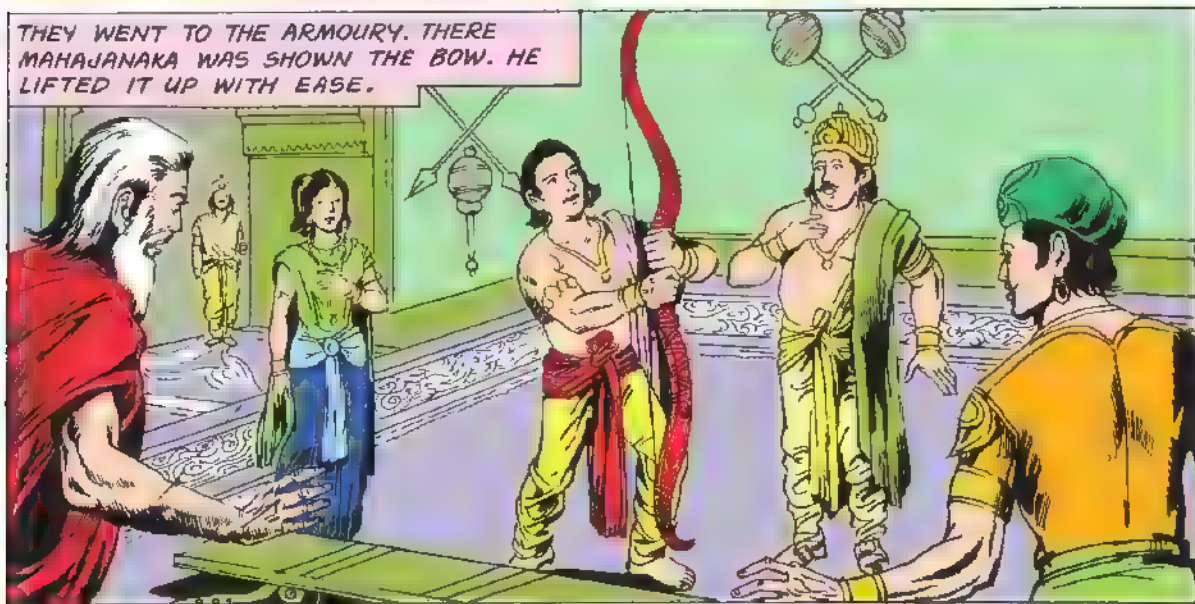
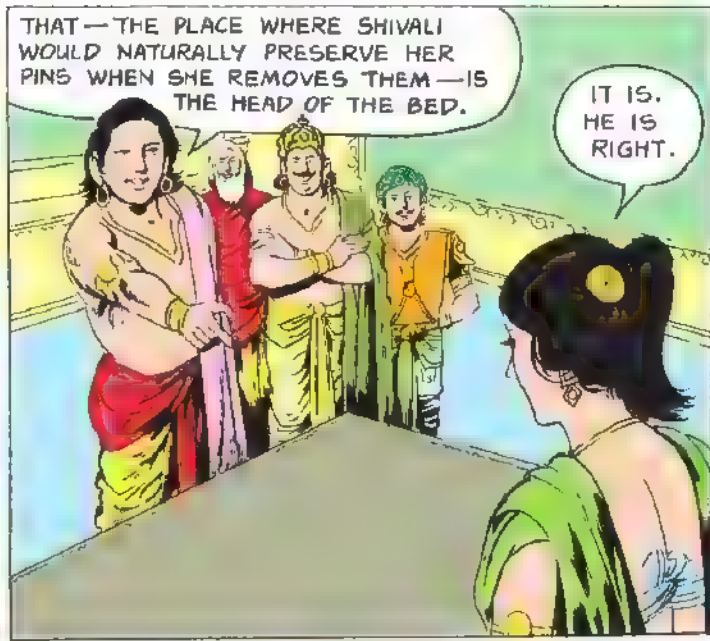


NOW FOR THE
TASKS. FIRST
YOU WILL HAVE
TO FIND THE
HEAD OF A
SQUARE BED.

IS THAT
ALL?





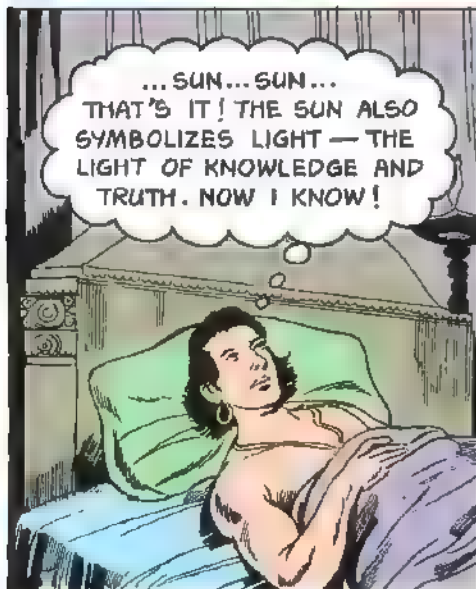






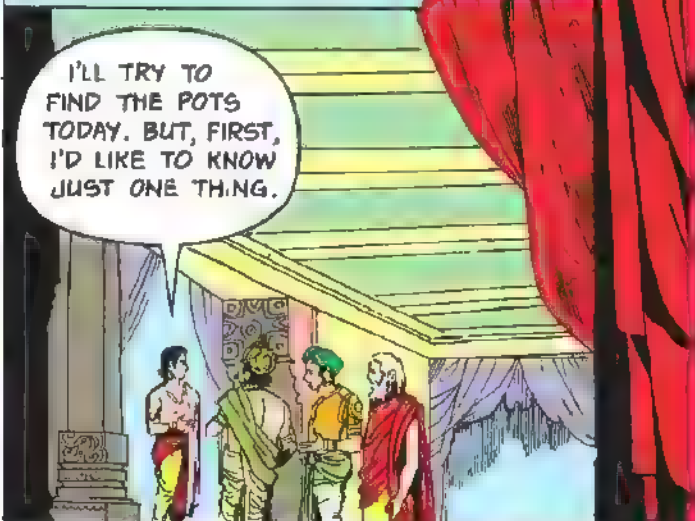
THAT NIGHT MANAVANAKA THOUGHT VERY HARD.

WHERE THE SUN RISES
...AND WHERE IT SETS...HMM
...THESE CAN'T SIMPLY BE
EAST AND WEST. WHAT
COULD IT BE...? SUN...

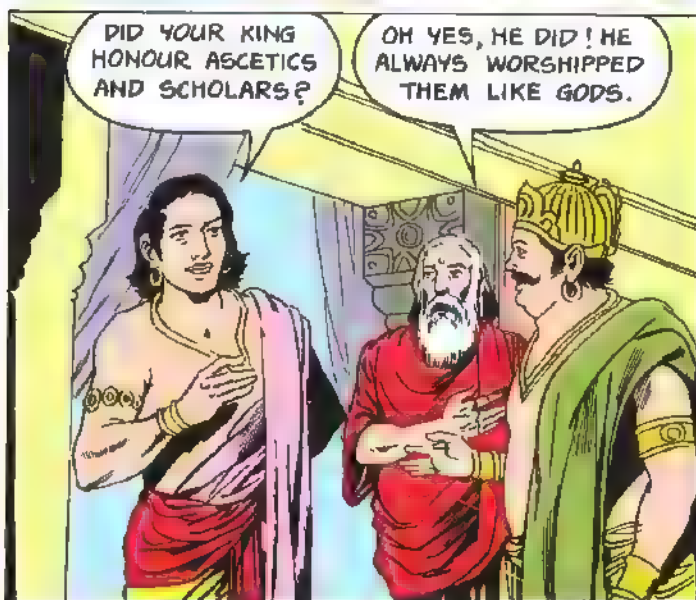


...SUN... SUN...
THAT'S IT! THE SUN ALSO
SYMBOLIZES LIGHT — THE
LIGHT OF KNOWLEDGE AND
TRUTH. NOW I KNOW!

THE NEXT MORNING WHEN THE MINISTERS
ASSEMBLED IN THE HALL —

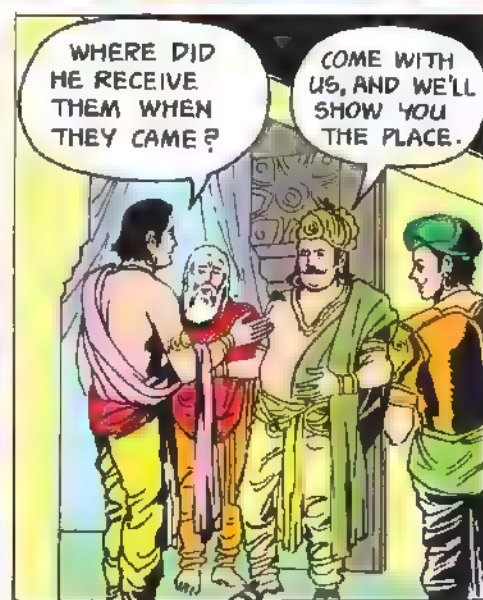


I'LL TRY TO
FIND THE POTS
TODAY. BUT, FIRST,
I'D LIKE TO KNOW
JUST ONE THING.



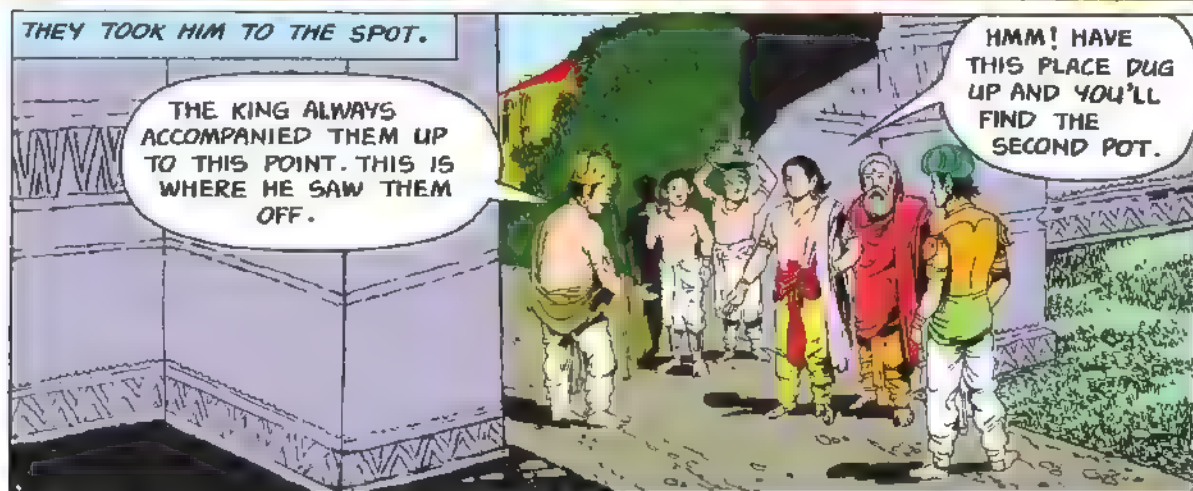
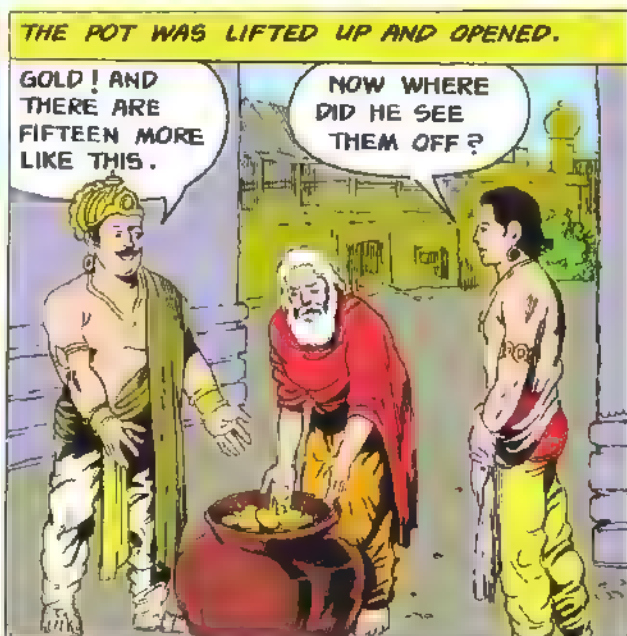
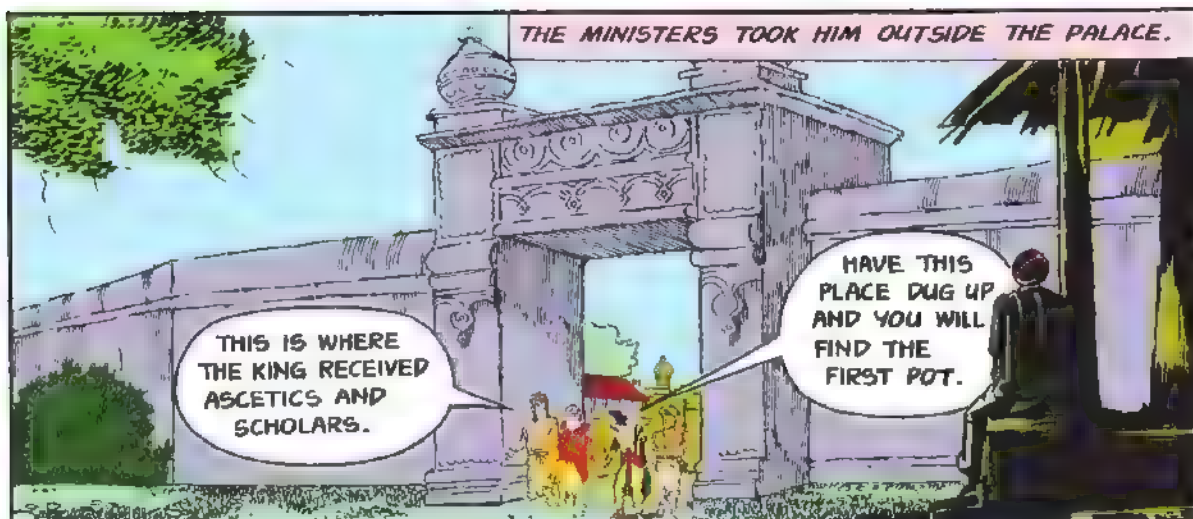
DID YOUR KING
HONOUR ASCETICS
AND SCHOLARS?

OH YES, HE DID! HE
ALWAYS WORSHIPPED
THEM LIKE GODS.



WHERE DID
HE RECEIVE
THEM WHEN
THEY CAME?

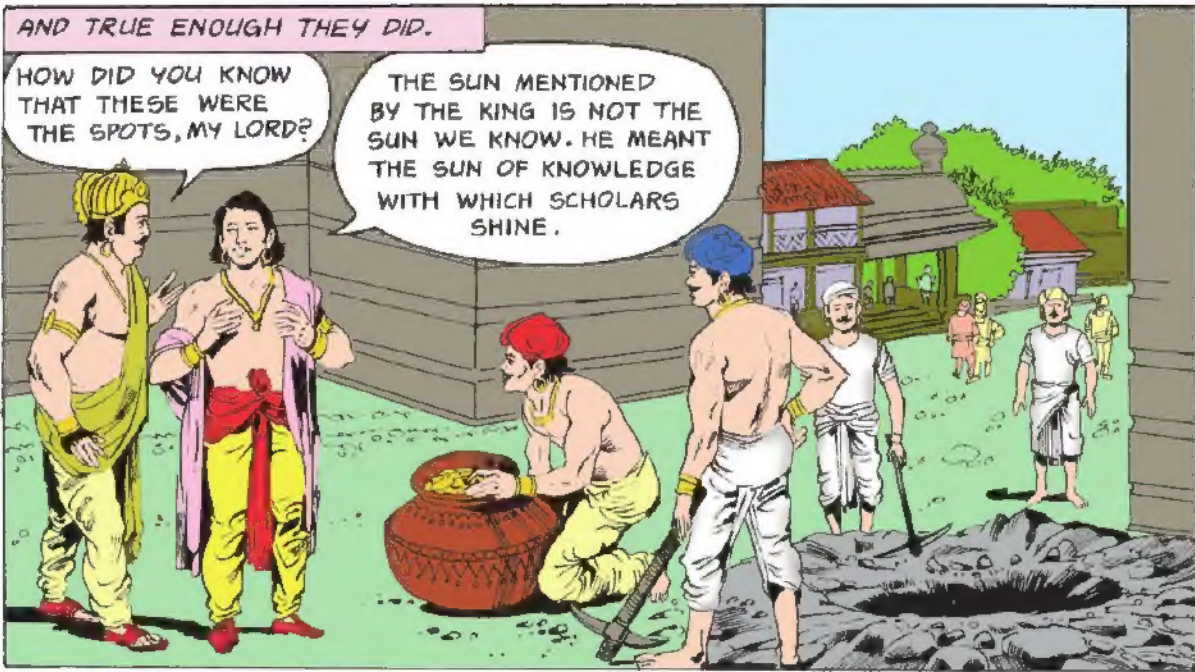
COME WITH
US, AND WE'LL
SHOW YOU
THE PLACE.



AND TRUE ENOUGH THEY DID.

HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT THESE WERE THE SPOTS, MY LORD?

THE SUN MENTIONED BY THE KING IS NOT THE SUN WE KNOW. HE MEANT THE SUN OF KNOWLEDGE WITH WHICH SCHOLARS SHINE.

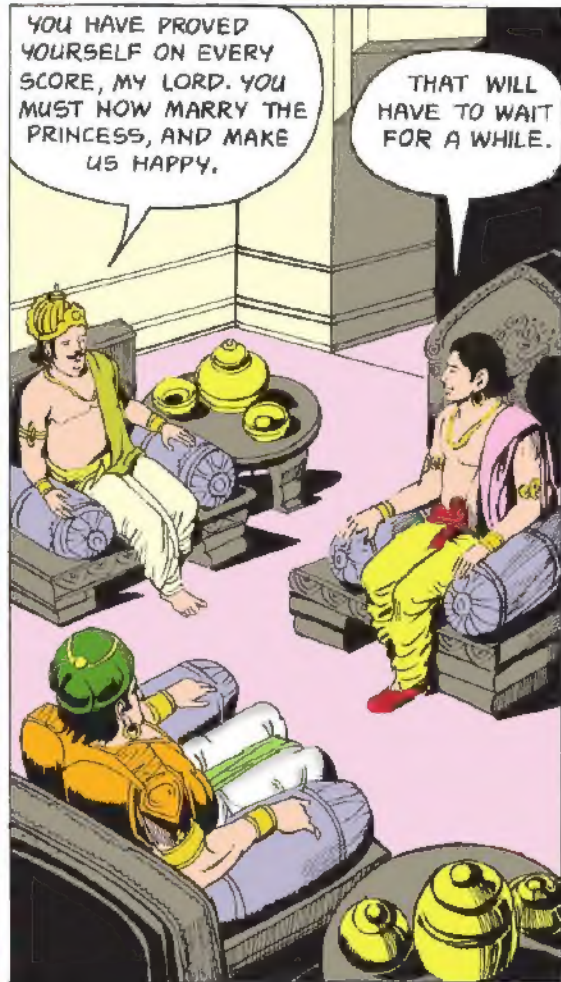


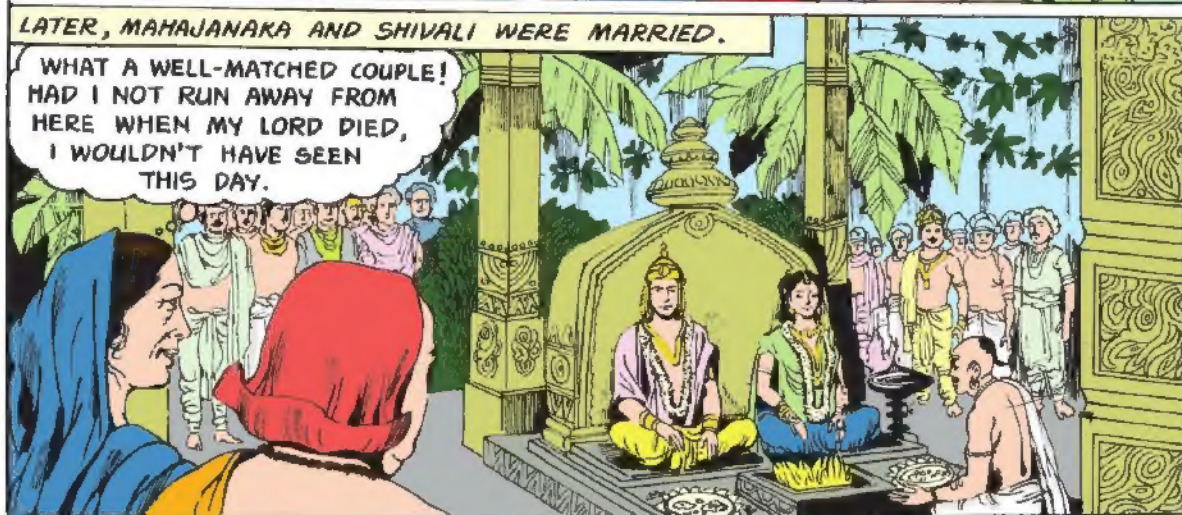
AFTER THIS MAHAJANAKA DECIPHERED THE REMAINING CLUES ONE AFTER THE OTHER AND ALL THE SIXTEEN POTS WERE FOUND.



YOU HAVE PROVED YOURSELF ON EVERY SCORE, MY LORD. YOU MUST NOW MARRY THE PRINCESS, AND MAKE US HAPPY.

THAT WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR A WHILE.





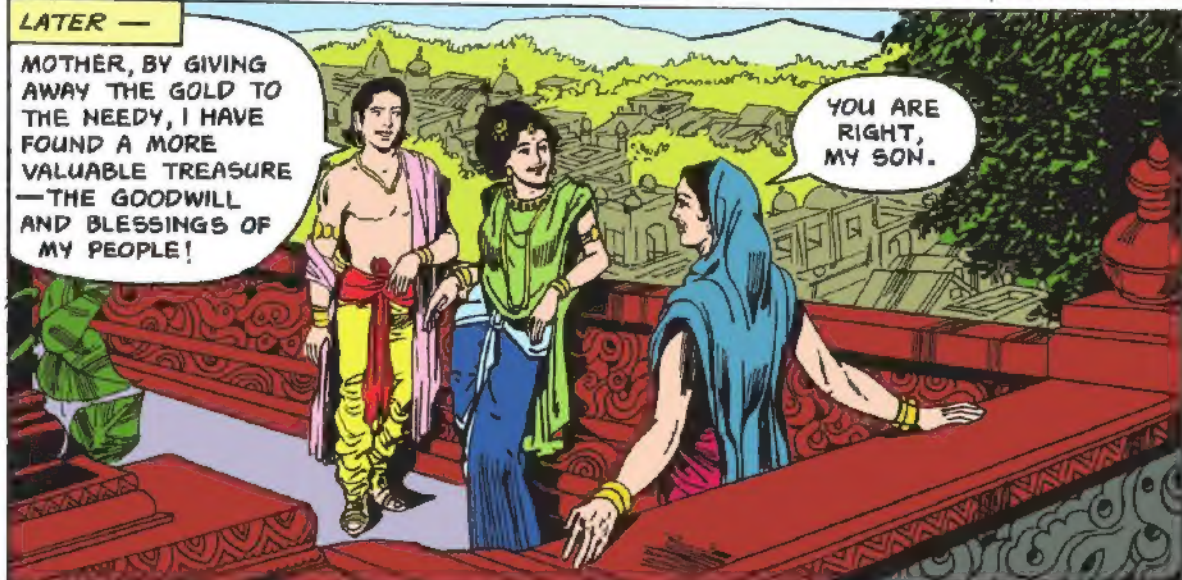
WHEN MAHAJANAKA WAS CROWNED KING OF MITHILA, HE MADE AN ANNOUNCEMENT—



THE DECLARATION WAS RECEIVED WITH GREAT JOY.



LATER —

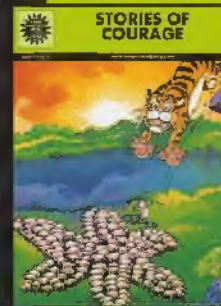
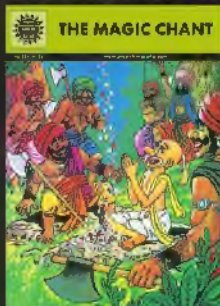


THE HIDDEN TREASURE

Mahajanaka was all set to wage a bloody war. Fate, however, had other plans. It turned his battlefield into a magnificent palace, where he was required to woo and win a beautiful princess. Wit was to be his most valuable weapon. Strong, handsome and yet wise, such a battle was easy for the young man. But for the many others who coveted his throne, it was an insurmountable hurdle.

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- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

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